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Agenda item 108

PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF THE RIGHTS OF CHILDREN

Afghanistan, Andorra, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Belgium, Bhutan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Cape Verde, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, India, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kyrgyzstan, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Mongolia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Pakistan, Panama, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Venezuela*: draft resolution

The rights of the child

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 51/77, 51/76 and 51/186 and Commission on Human Rights resolution 1997/78,

Recalling the Declaration and Plan of Action adopted by the World Summit for Children in 1990, notably its solemn commitment to give high priority to the rights of children, to their survival and to their protection and development, and reaffirming the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, which, inter alia, states that national and international mechanisms and programmes for the defence and protection of children, in particular those in especially difficult circumstances, should be strengthened, including through effective measures to combat exploitation and abuse of children such as female infanticide, harmful child labour, sale of children and organs, child

* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States.

prostitution and child pornography as well as other forms of sexual abuse, and which reaffirms that all human rights and fundamental freedoms are universal,

Underlining the need for mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes relating to children,

Profoundly concerned that the situation of children in many parts of the world remains critical as a result of inadequate social and economic conditions, poverty, natural disasters, armed conflicts, displacement, exploitation, racism and all forms of intolerance, unemployment, rural-to-urban migration, illiteracy, hunger, disability, and drug abuse, and convinced that urgent and effective national and international action is called for,

Inviting Member States to promote the values of peace, understanding, and dialogue in the education of children, and awareness of the urgent need to combat poverty, malnutrition, and illiteracy worldwide,

Recognizing that legislation alone is not enough to prevent violations of the rights of the child, that stronger political commitment is needed and that Governments should implement their laws and complement legislative measures with effective action,

Recommending that within their mandates, all relevant human rights mechanisms and all other relevant organs and mechanisms of the United Nations system and the supervisory bodies of the specialized agencies pay attention to particular situations in which children are in danger and where their rights are violated and that they take into account the work of the Committee on the Rights of the Child,

Stressing the need to strengthen partnerships between Governments, international organizations and all sectors of civil society, in particular non-governmental organizations, in order to achieve these objectives,

Reaffirming that the best interests of the child shall be a primary consideration in all actions concerning children,

I

Implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child

1. Welcomes the unprecedented number of 191 States that have ratified or acceded to the Convention on the Rights of the Child as a universal commitment to the rights of the child;

2. Urges once again all States that have not yet done so to sign and ratify or accede to the Convention as a matter of priority, with a view to reaching the goal of universal adherence established by the World Summit for Children and reiterated by the Vienna Declaration and Programme for Action;

3. Recognizes the important role of the Committee on the Rights of the Child in creating awareness of the principles and provisions of the Convention and in providing recommendations to States parties on its implementation;

4. Invites the Committee on the Rights of the Child to further enhance the constructive dialogue with the States Parties and the transparent and effective functioning of the Committee;

5. Requests the Secretary-General to ensure the provision of appropriate staff and facilities for the effective and expeditious performance of the functions of the Committee on the Rights of the Child, and takes note of the Plan of Action of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to strengthen the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child;

6. Calls upon States parties to implement fully the Convention, to cooperate closely with the Committee on the Rights of the Child and to comply in a timely manner with their reporting obligations under the Convention, in accordance with the guidelines elaborated by the Committee;

7. Calls upon States parties to withdraw reservations incompatible with the object and purpose of the Convention and to consider reviewing other reservations;

8. Recalls that the amendment to article 43 (2) of the Convention, which would increase the membership of the Committee on the Rights of the Child from 10 to 18 experts, was adopted by the Conference of States parties on 12 December 1995, that this amendment was approved by the General Assembly on 21 December 1995 in its resolution 50/155, and therefore calls upon States parties to take appropriate measures so that acceptance of the amendment by a two-thirds majority of States parties can be reached as soon as possible in order for the amendment to enter into force;

9. Calls upon States parties to the Convention to ensure that the education of the child shall be carried out in accordance with article 29 of the Convention and that the education be directed, inter alia, to the development of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, for the Charter of the United Nations and for different cultures and to the preparation of the child for responsible life in a free society, in the spirit of understanding, peace, tolerance, gender equality and friendship among peoples, ethnic, national and religious groups and persons of indigenous origin;

10. Calls upon States parties to the Convention, in accordance with their obligation under article 42 of the Convention, to make the principles and provisions of the Convention widely known to adults and children alike, and also calls upon States parties to encourage training on the rights of the child for those involved in activities concerning children, for example through the programme of advisory services and technical cooperation in the field of human rights;

11. Stresses that the implementation of the Convention contributes to the achievement of the goals of the World Summit for Children as emphasized in the report of the Secretary-General on the progress at mid-decade on implementation of General Assembly resolution 45/217 of 21 December 1990 on the World Summit for Children;

12. Encourages the Committee, in monitoring the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, to continue to pay attention to the needs of children in especially difficult circumstances;

II

Children with disabilities

1. Welcomes the increased attention given by the Committee on the Rights of the Child to the equal enjoyment by children with disabilities of the rights of the child;

2. Calls upon all States to take all necessary measures to ensure the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by children with disabilities, and to develop and enforce legislation against discrimination against children with disabilities;

3. Calls upon all States to promote for children with disabilities a full and decent life, in conditions which ensure dignity, promote self-reliance, and facilitate the child's active participation in the community;

4. Emphasizes the right to education as a human right, and calls upon States to make education accessible to children with special educational needs in a manner conducive to the child's achieving the fullest possible social integration and individual development, and to adopt an integrated approach to providing adequate support and appropriate education for such children;

5. Welcomes the decision by the Economic and Social Council to request the Special Rapporteur on Disabilities of the Commission for Social Development to pay special attention to children with disabilities, and the invitation to enhance the cooperation between the Special Rapporteur and the Committee on the Rights of the Child, and also requests the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the United Nations Children's Fund to work closely with him;

6. Calls upon all States, in complying with their reporting obligations to the Committee under article 44 (1) of the Convention, to include, in accordance with the Committee's guidelines (CRC/C/58), information on the situation and the needs of children with disabilities, including disaggregated data, and on the measures taken to ensure to such children their enjoyment of the rights under the Convention;

III

Prevention and eradication of the sale of children and of their sexual exploitation, including child prostitution and child pornography

1. Welcomes the interim report of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography and expresses its support for her work in examining, all over the world, the question of the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography;

2. Requests the Secretary-General to provide the Special Rapporteur with all necessary human and financial assistance to make the full discharge of the mandate possible and to enable her to submit an interim report to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session and a report to the Commission on Human Rights at its fifty-fourth session;

3. Supports the work of the open-ended inter-sessional working group of the Commission on Human Rights on the elaboration of a draft optional protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child related to the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, and expresses the hope that it will make further progress prior to the fifty-fourth session of the Commission with a view to finalizing this work before the tenth anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child;

4. Calls upon all States parties to fulfil their obligation under article 34 of the Convention, and also calls upon all States to support efforts in the context of the United Nations system aimed at adopting effective national, bilateral and multilateral measures for the prevention and eradication of the sale of children and of their sexual exploitation, including child prostitution and child pornography, in particular by criminalizing the sexual exploitation of children;

5. Requests all States to implement on an urgent basis measures to protect children from all forms of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse, including measures in line with those outlined in the Declaration and Agenda for Action of the World Congress against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children;

6. Calls upon States to criminalize all forms of sexual exploitation of children, including commercial sexual exploitation, and to condemn and penalize all those offenders involved, whether local or foreign, while ensuring that children victims of this practice are not penalized;

7. Calls upon States to review and revise, where appropriate, laws, policies, programmes and practices to eliminate all forms of sexual exploitation of children, including commercial sexual exploitation;

8. Further calls upon States to enforce relevant laws, policies and programmes to protect children from sexual exploitation, in particular by penalizing all those offenders involved, and to strengthen communication and cooperation between law enforcement authorities;

9. Stresses the need to combat the existence of a market that encourages such criminal practices against children;

10. Urges States, in cases of sex tourism, to develop or strengthen and implement laws to criminalize the acts of nationals of the countries of origin when committed against children in the countries of destination, to ensure that a person who exploits a child for sexual abuse purposes in another country is prosecuted by competent national authorities, either in the country of origin or in the country of destination, to strengthen laws and law enforcement, including confiscation and seizure of assets and profits and other sanctions, against

those who commit sexual crimes against children in countries of destination, and to share relevant data;

11. Requests States to step up cooperation and concerted action by all relevant law enforcement authorities and institutions with a view to dismantling national, regional and international networks in trafficking in children;

12. Invites States to allocate resources to provide comprehensive programmes designed to heal and to rehabilitate into society child victims of trafficking and sexual exploitation, including through job training, legal assistance and confidential health care, and to take all appropriate measures to promote their physical and psychological recovery and social reintegration;

IV

Protection of children affected by armed conflict

1. Expresses grave concern at the numerous damaging effects of armed conflicts on children, including the use of children as combatants in such situations, and emphasizes the need for the world community to focus increased attention on this serious problem with a view to bringing it to an end;

2. Invites all States to accede to relevant international human rights and humanitarian law instruments, and urges them to implement those instruments to which they are parties;

3. Calls upon all States and other parties to armed conflict to respect international humanitarian law and, in this regard, calls upon States parties to respect fully the provisions of the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 and the additional protocols thereto of 1977, while bearing in mind resolution 2 of the twenty-sixth International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, and to respect the provisions of the Convention on the Rights of the Child which accord children affected by armed conflict special protection and treatment;

4. Calls upon States and United Nations bodies and organizations to treat children during conflict and in post-conflict situations as a priority concern in human rights, humanitarian and development activities, including in field operations and country programmes, to enhance coordination and cooperation throughout the United Nations system and to ensure effective protection for children affected by armed conflict;

5. Recommends that the humanitarian concerns relating to children affected by armed conflict and their protection be fully reflected in United Nations field operations, which, inter alia, promote peace, prevent and resolve conflicts, and implement peace agreements;

6. Underlines the importance that measures to ensure respect for the rights of the child, including in the areas of health and nutrition, formal, informal, or non-formal education, physical and psychological recovery, and social reintegration, be included within emergency and other humanitarian assistance policies and programmes;

7. Stresses the need for Governments and other parties to armed conflict to take measures, including the establishment, for example, of "days of tranquillity" and "corridors of peace", to ensure humanitarian access, the delivery of humanitarian relief and the provision of services, such as education and health, including immunization of children affected by armed conflict;

8. Supports the work of the working group of the Commission on Human Rights on a draft optional protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child related to the involvement of children in armed conflict, and expresses the hope that it will make further progress prior to the fifty-fourth session of the Commission with a view to finalizing this work;

9. Urges States and all other parties to armed conflict to adopt all necessary measures to end the use of children as soldiers and to ensure their demobilization and reintegration into society, including through adequate education and training, in a manner that fosters their self-respect and dignity, and invites the international community to assist in this endeavour;

10. Welcomes increased international efforts in various forums with respect to anti-personnel mines, recognizes the positive effect on children of those efforts, and in this regard takes due note of the conclusion of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction and its implementation by those States that become parties to it, as well as of the amended Mines Protocol of the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the use of certain conventional weapons which may be deemed to be excessively injurious or have indiscriminate effects;

11. Calls upon all States and relevant United Nations bodies, including the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund for Assistance in Mine Clearance, to contribute on an ongoing basis to international mine clearance efforts, and urges States to take further action to promote gender- and age-appropriate mine-awareness programmes and child-centred rehabilitation, thereby reducing the number and the plight of child victims;

12. Reaffirms that rape in the conduct of armed conflict constitutes a war crime and that under certain circumstances it constitutes a crime against humanity and an act of genocide as defined in the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, and calls upon all States to take all measures required for the protection of women and children from all acts of gender-based violence, including rape, sexual exploitation and forced pregnancy, to strengthen mechanisms to investigate and punish all those responsible and bring the perpetrators to justice;

13. Urgently requests that appropriate measures be taken by Member States and United Nations agencies, within the scope of their respective mandates, to ensure humanitarian access to children affected by armed conflict, to facilitate the extension of humanitarian assistance, including education, and to ensure the physical and psychological recovery and reintegration into society of child soldiers, victims of landmines and victims of gender-based violence;

14. Recommends that whenever sanctions are imposed their impact on children be assessed and monitored and humanitarian exceptions be child-focused and formulated with clear application guidelines;

15. Recalls the importance of preventive measures such as early warning systems, preventive diplomacy and education for peace to prevent conflicts and their negative impact on the rights of the child, and urges Governments and the international community to promote sustainable human development;

16. Calls upon all States, in accordance with the norms of international humanitarian law, to integrate in their armed forces' training and education programmes, including those for peacekeeping, instruction on responsibilities towards the civilian population, particularly women and children;

17. Welcomes the appointment of Mr. Olara Otunnu as the Special Representative of the Secretary General for Children and Armed Conflict in accordance with General Assembly resolution 51/77 of 12 December 1996;

18. Invites Governments, specialized agencies, relevant United Nations bodies, notably the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the United Nations Children's Fund, and regional, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, as well as the Committee on the Rights of the Child, to cooperate with the Special Representative and to contribute to his work, including his annual report;

19. Recommends that the Secretary-General ensure that the necessary support is made available to the Special Representative for the effective performance of his mandate, encourages the United Nations Children's Fund, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to provide support to the Special Representative, and calls upon States and other institutions to provide voluntary contributions for that purpose;

20. Invites Member States and relevant United Nations bodies and non-governmental organizations to consider how the impact of armed conflict on children can best be integrated into events designed to commemorate the tenth anniversary of the World Summit for Children and the entry into force of the Convention;

V

Refugee and internally displaced children

1. Urges Governments to pay particular attention to the situation of refugee and internally displaced children by continuing to design and improve the implementation of policies for their care and well-being with the necessary international cooperation, in particular with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the United Nations Children's Fund and international humanitarian organizations;

2. Calls upon States and United Nations bodies, in recognizing the particular vulnerability of refugee and internally displaced children, to protect both their safety and their developmental needs, including health, education, and psycho-social rehabilitation;

3. Expresses its deep concern about the growing number of unaccompanied refugee and internally displaced children and calls upon all States and United Nations bodies and agencies to ensure the early identification and registration of unaccompanied refugee and internally displaced children, to give priority to programmes for family tracing and reunification, and to continue monitoring the care arrangements for unaccompanied refugee and internally displaced children;

4. Calls upon all States and other parties to armed conflicts to recognize the particular vulnerability of refugee and internally displaced children to the damaging effects of such conflicts, stresses the special vulnerability of child-headed households, and calls upon Governments and United Nations bodies to give these situations urgent attention, to enhance protection and assistance mechanisms, and to involve women and youth in the design, delivery, and monitoring of measures taken to this effect;

5. Invites the Representative of the Secretary-General on internally displaced persons to take into account the situation of internally displaced children in his preparation of guiding principles which are to form part of a comprehensive framework for the protection of internally displaced persons;

VI

Elimination of exploitation of child labour

1. Reaffirms the right of the child to be protected from economic exploitation and from performing any work that is likely to be hazardous to or interfere with the child's education, or to be harmful to the child's health or physical, mental, spiritual, moral or social development;

2. Welcomes the measures taken by Governments to eliminate the exploitation of child labour, while recalling the Programme of Action for the Elimination of the Exploitation of Child Labour, and calls upon relevant United Nations agencies, in particular the United Nations Children's Fund and the International Labour Organization, to continue to support national efforts in this regard;

3. Welcomes the recent holding of various international conferences on various forms of child labour;

4. Welcomes the efforts by the Committee on the Rights of the Child in the area of child labour, takes note of its recommendations and encourages the Committee as well as other relevant human rights treaty bodies, within their respective mandates, to continue to monitor this growing problem when examining reports of States parties;

5. Calls upon all States to translate into concrete action their commitment to the progressive and effective elimination of all forms of

exploitative child labour, and urges them, as a matter of priority, to eliminate all extreme forms of child labour, such as forced labour, bonded labour and other forms of slavery;

6. Calls upon all States that have not yet done so to consider ratifying the conventions of the International Labour Organization concerning the abolition of forced labour and the minimum age for employment, including for particularly hazardous work for children, and to implement those conventions;

7. Calls upon all States to support the negotiation, with a view to its early finalization, by the International Labour Organization of a future instrument aimed at eradicating the most intolerable forms of child labour;

8. Calls upon all States to set specific target dates for eliminating all forms of child labour that are contrary to accepted international standards and for ensuring the full enforcement of relevant existing laws and, where appropriate, enacting legislation necessary to implement their obligations under the Convention on the Rights of the Child and International Labour Organization standards ensuring the protection of working children;

9. Calls upon all States to recognize the right to education by making primary education compulsory and ensuring that all children have access to free primary education as a key strategy to prevent child labour;

10. Calls upon all States to systematically assess and examine, in close cooperation with international organizations such as the International Labour Organization and the United Nations Children's Fund, the magnitude, nature and causes of the exploitation of child labour, and to develop and implement strategies for combating these practices, with a specific emphasis on the situation of girls, their right to education and access to schools on an equal basis with boys, in close cooperation with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization;

11. Calls upon all States and the United Nations system to strengthen international cooperation as a means of assisting Governments in preventing or combating violations of the rights of the child, including the exploitation of child labour;

VII

The plight of children living and/or working on the streets

1. Expresses grave concern at the large number of children living and/or working on the streets, and at the continued growth in incidents and reports worldwide of such children being affected by serious crime, drug trafficking and abuse, violence and prostitution;

2. Welcomes the continuing efforts of Governments, the United Nations system, and civil society to tackle this multifaceted problem;

3. Calls upon Governments to continue actively to seek comprehensive solutions for the problems of children living and/or working on the streets,

including by helping to alleviate the poverty of such children, their families, or guardians, by taking measures to ensure their reintegration into society, and by providing, inter alia, adequate nutrition, shelter, health care and education, taking into account that such children are particularly vulnerable to all forms of violence, abuse, exploitation and neglect;

4. Emphasizes that the provisions of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and other relevant human rights instruments must constitute the standard in efforts to deal with this problem, and recommends that the Committee on the Rights of the Child and other relevant human rights treaty monitoring bodies continue to give attention to it when examining the reports of States parties;

5. Strongly urges all Governments to guarantee the respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms, particularly the right to life, and to take urgent measures to prevent the killing of children living and/or working on the streets and to combat torture and violence against them, and to ensure strict compliance with the Convention on the Rights of the Child and other relevant human rights instruments, including the requirement that legal and juridical processes respect the rights of the child;

6. Calls upon the international community to support, through effective international cooperation, the efforts of States to improve the situation of such children and encourages States parties to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, in preparing their reports to the Committee on the Rights of the Child, to take full account of the particular needs and rights of such children and to consider requesting technical advice and assistance for initiatives aimed at improving their situation;

VIII

1. Decides:

(a) To request the Secretary-General to submit a report on the rights of the child to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session, containing information on the status of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the problems addressed in this resolution;

(b) To request the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict to submit to the General Assembly and the Commission on Human Rights an annual report containing relevant information on the situation of children affected by armed conflict, bearing in mind existing mandates and reports of relevant bodies;

(c) To continue its consideration of this question at its fifty-third session under the item entitled "Promotion and protection of the rights of the child".

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REPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES, QUESTIONS RELATING TO REFUGEES, RETURNEES AND DISPLACED PERSONS AND HUMANITARIAN QUESTIONS

Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Burundi, Congo, Costa Rica, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Islamic Republic of Iran, Liberia, Malawi, Morocco, Nigeria, Pakistan, Philippines, Qatar, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Turkey: draft resolution

Assistance to unaccompanied refugee minors

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 49/172 of 23 December 1994, 50/150 of 21 December 1995 and 51/73 of 12 December 1996,

Aware of the fact that the majority of refugees are children and women,

Bearing in mind that unaccompanied refugee minors are among the most vulnerable and at risk of neglect, violence, forced military recruitment, sexual assault and other abuses and therefore require special assistance and care,

Mindful of the fact that the ultimate solution to the plight of unaccompanied minors is their return to and reunification with their families,

Noting the revised Guidelines on Refugee Children issued by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in May 1994 and the development of an emergency kit to facilitate coordination and to enhance the quality of responses to the needs of unaccompanied minors by the Office of the High Commissioner, the United Nations Children's Fund and the non-governmental organizations,

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Noting with appreciation the efforts of the Office of the High Commissioner in the identification and tracing of unaccompanied refugee minors, and welcoming its effort in reunifying family members of refugees,

Welcoming the efforts exerted by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees for the reunification of family members of refugees,

Noting the efforts of the High Commissioner to ensure the protection of and assistance to refugees, including children and unaccompanied minors, and that further efforts need to be exerted to this effect,

Recalling the provisions of the Convention on the Rights of the Child[1] and the 1951 Convention[2] and the 1967 Protocol[3] relating to the Status of Refugees,

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General;[4]

2. Expresses its deep concern at the continued plight of unaccompanied refugee minors, and emphasizes once again the urgent need for their early identification and for timely, detailed and accurate information on their number and whereabouts;

3. Expresses the hope once again that adequate resources will be provided for programmes of identification and tracing of unaccompanied refugee minors;

4. Calls upon the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, in cooperation with other relevant United Nations bodies, to incorporate policies that aim at preventing refugee family separation into its programmes, conscious of the importance of family unity;

5. Calls upon all Governments, the Secretary-General, the Office of the High Commissioner, all United Nations organizations, other international organizations and non-governmental organizations concerned to exert the maximum effort to assist and protect refugee minors and to expedite the return to and reunification with their families of unaccompanied refugee minors;

6. Urges the Office of the High Commissioner, all United Nations organizations, other international organizations and non-governmental organizations concerned to take appropriate steps to mobilize resources commensurate to the needs and interests of the unaccompanied refugee minors and for their reunification with their families;

7. Condemns all acts of exploitation of unaccompanied refugee minors, including their use as soldiers or human shields in armed conflict and their

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[1] Resolution 44/25, annex.

[2] United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 189, No. 2,545.

[3] Ibid., vol. 606, No. 8,791.

[4] A/52/273.

forced recruitment into military forces, and any other acts that endanger their safety and personal security;

8. Calls upon the Secretary-General, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the Department of Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat, the United Nations Children's Fund and other United Nations organizations and international organizations to mobilize adequate assistance to unaccompanied refugee minors in the areas of relief, education, health and psychological rehabilitation;

9. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session on the implementation of the present resolution, and to give special attention to the girl-child refugee in his report.

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REPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES, QUESTIONS RELATING TO REFUGEES, RETURNEES AND DISPLACED PERSONS AND HUMANITARIAN QUESTIONS

Lesotho*: draft resolution

Assistance to refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Africa

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 51/71 of 12 December 1996,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General[1] and the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees,[2]

Noting with appreciation the efforts expended by countries of asylum in accommodating refugees,

Convinced of the necessity of strengthening the capacity within the United Nations system for the implementation of relief programmes for refugees, returnees and displaced persons,

Welcoming the ongoing process of voluntary repatriation of refugees in some parts of Africa,

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* On behalf of States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of African States.

[1] A/52/360.

[2] Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 12A (A/52/12/Add.1).

Welcoming also the decision on the situation of refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Africa adopted by the Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity at its sixty-sixth ordinary session held at Harare from 28 to 31 May 1997,[1]

Taking note of the memorandum of understanding signed by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the South African Development Community in July 1996 concerning refugees, returnees, displaced persons and undocumented migration in southern Africa,

Taking note also of the memorandum of understanding signed between the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development in June 1997 on refugees and returnee issues,

Recalling the provisions of General Assembly resolution 2312 (XXII) of 14 December 1967, by which it adopted the Declaration on Territorial Asylum,

Recalling also the 1969 Organization of African Unity Convention on Refugees, governing specific aspects of refugee problems in Africa and the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights,

Recognizing the need for States to create conditions conducive both to the prevention of flows of refugees and displaced persons and to solutions, especially voluntary repatriation,

Recognizing also the positive outcome of the conflict resolution efforts carried out in the subregion by the Economic Community of West African States, creating a conducive environment for the voluntary repatriation of refugees and displaced persons,

Bearing in mind that the majority of refugees and displaced persons are women and children,

Noting with great concern that despite all the efforts deployed so far by the United Nations, the Organization of African Unity and others, the situation of refugees and displaced persons in Africa, especially in the West African and Great Lakes regions and in the Horn of Africa, remains precarious,

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General[2] and the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees;[3]

2. Notes with concern that political instability, internal strife, human rights violations and natural disasters, such as drought, have led to increased numbers of refugees and displaced persons in some countries of Africa;

3. Expresses deep concern at the serious and far-reaching consequences of large numbers of refugees and displaced persons in the receiving countries and

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[1] CM/Dec.362(LXVI).

the implications for security, long-term socio-economic development and the environment;

4. Expresses concern at instances where the fundamental principle of asylum is jeopardized by the unlawful expulsion, or refoulement, or by threats to the life, physical security, integrity, dignity and the well-being of refugees;

5. Expresses its appreciation and strong support for those African Governments and local populations that, in spite of the general deterioration of socio-economic and environmental conditions and over-stretched national resources, continue to accept the additional burden imposed upon them by increasing numbers of refugees and displaced persons, in compliance with the relevant principles of asylum;

6. Commends the Governments concerned for their sacrifices in providing assistance and protection to refugees, returnees and internally displaced persons and for their efforts to promote voluntary repatriation and other durable solutions;

7. Expresses its gratitude to the international community, and to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, in particular, for the humanitarian assistance it has continued to render to refugees and displaced persons and to the countries of asylum;

8. Welcomes the strengthening of cooperation between the Office of the High Commissioner and the Organization of African Unity at all levels, and urges the two organizations, in conjunction with United Nations agencies, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, the international community and the Governments concerned, to increase efforts aimed at facilitating voluntary repatriation in a dignified and orderly manner and at addressing the root causes of the refugee problem and working out modalities for a lasting solution;

9. Reiterates that the Plan of Action adopted by the Regional Conference on Assistance to Refugees, Returnees and Displaced Persons in the Great Lakes Region, held at Bujumbura from 15 to 17 February 1995, as endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 50/149, continues to be a viable framework for the resolution of the refugee and humanitarian problems in that region;

10. Calls upon the Office of the High Commissioner and other concerned entities to intensify protection activities by, inter alia, supporting the efforts of African Governments through appropriate capacity-building activities, including training of relevant officers, disseminating information about refugee instruments and principles, and providing financial, technical and advisory services to accelerate the enactment or amendment and implementation of legislation relating to refugees;

11. Appeals to the Governments, the United Nations, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and the international community to create conditions that can facilitate the voluntary return and the early rehabilitation and reintegration of refugees;

12. Appeals to the international community to respond positively to the third-country resettlement requests of African refugees in the spirit of solidarity and burden-sharing;

13. Commends the Governments of the Great Lakes and West African regions and of the Horn of Africa and the Office of the High Commissioner for their initiatives to promote repatriation within the framework of tripartite agreements on voluntary repatriation of refugees in the regions;

14. Encourages the Office of the High Commissioner to continue to promote and protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms in emergency humanitarian situations in Africa;

15. Welcomes the ongoing efforts undertaken by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees with host Governments, the United Nations and non-governmental organizations and the international community, in concentrating on the environment and eco-systems of countries of asylum;

16. Notes with satisfaction the voluntary return of millions of refugees to their homelands following the successful repatriation and reintegration operations carried out by the Office of the High Commissioner, with the cooperation and collaboration of countries hosting refugees and countries of origin, and looks forward to other programmes to assist the voluntary repatriation of all refugees in Africa;

17. Expresses its concern about the long stay of refugees in certain African countries, and calls upon the Office of the High Commissioner to keep its programmes under review, in conformity with its mandate in the host countries, taking into account the increasing requirements there;

18. Urges the international community to continue to fund the general refugee programmes of the Office of the High Commissioner, taking into account the substantially increased needs of programmes in Africa;

19. Calls upon Governments, United Nations agencies, non-governmental organizations and the international community as a whole to strengthen the emergency response capacity of the United Nations system on the basis of the experience of the emergency in the Great Lakes region and to continue to provide needed resources and operational support to refugees and countries of asylum in Africa until a permanent solution can be found;

20. Calls upon the international donor community to provide material and financial assistance for the implementation of programmes intended for the rehabilitation of the environment and infrastructure in areas affected by refugees in countries of asylum;

21. Requests all Governments and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to pay particular attention to meeting the special needs of refugee women and children;

22. Calls upon the Secretary-General, the Office of the High Commissioner and intergovernmental, regional and non-governmental organizations to increase

the capacity for coordination and delivery of humanitarian emergency assistance and disaster relief in general with States and others concerned in respect of asylum, relief, repatriation, rehabilitation and resettlement of refugees, returnees and displaced persons, including refugees in urban areas;

23. Requests the Secretary-General to submit a comprehensive and consolidated report on the situation of refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Africa to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session, taking fully into account the efforts expended by countries of asylum, under the item entitled "Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, questions relating to refugees, returnees and displaced persons and humanitarian questions" and an oral report to the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 1998.

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Agenda item 107

REPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES, QUESTIONS RELATING TO REFUGEES, RETURNEES AND DISPLACED PERSONS AND HUMANITARIAN QUESTIONS

Armenia, Belarus, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Italy, Kyrgyzstan, Luxembourg, Norway, Portugal, Russian Federation, Sweden, Tajikistan and United States of America: draft resolution

Follow-up to the Regional Conference to Address the Problems of Refugees, Displaced Persons, Other Forms of Involuntary Displacement and Returnees in the Countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States and Relevant Neighbouring States

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 48/113 of 20 December 1993, 49/173 of 23 December 1994, 50/151 of 21 December 1995 and, in particular, 51/70 of 12 December 1996,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General[1] and the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees,[2]

Recognizing the acuteness of the migration and displacement of problems in the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States,

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[1] A/52/274 and Corr.1.

[2] Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 12 (A/52/12).

Noting with satisfaction the efforts of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the International Organization for Migration towards developing strategies and practical tools for more effective capacity-building and enhancing programmes to address the needs of various categories of concern to the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States,

Convinced of the necessity for further strengthening of practical measures towards the implementation of the Programme of Action adopted by the Regional Conference to Address the Problems of Refugees, Displaced Persons, Other Forms of Involuntary Displacement and Returnees in the Countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States and Relevant Neighbouring States,[3]

Reaffirming the view of the Conference that the primary responsibility for tackling population displacement problems lies with the affected countries themselves and that these issues are to be regarded as national priorities, while at the same time recognizing the need for enhancing international support of the national efforts of the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States aiming at the effective implementation of such responsibilities within the framework of the Programme of Action,

Recalling that the protection and promotion of human rights and the strengthening of democratic institutions are essential to prevent mass population displacement,

Mindful that effective implementation of the recommendations contained in the Programme of Action should be facilitated and can be ensured only through cooperation and coordinated activities undertaken in this respect by all interested States, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and other actors,

Noting and reaffirming the importance of the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees[4] and its 1967 Protocol,[5]

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General[1] and the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees;[2]

2. Notes the positive results achieved by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the International Organization for Migration and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe in the implementation of the Programme of Action adopted by the Regional Conference to Address the Problems of Refugees, Displaced Persons, Other Forms of Involuntary Displacement and Returnees in the Countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States and Relevant Neighbouring States and invites these organizations to continue to steer the ongoing and future activities relating to the follow-up of the Conference;

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[3] A/51/341 and Corr.1, annex, appendix.

[4] United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 189, No. 2545.

[5] Ibid., vol. 606, No. 8791.

3. Welcomes the efforts of the Governments of those countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States that, in cooperation with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the International Organization for Migration, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and the Council of Europe, have undertaken practical steps in the implementation of the Programme of Action;

4. Invites all countries that have not yet done so to accede to and implement fully the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol;

5. Appreciates the efforts made by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the International Organization for Migration and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe to support the implementation of the Programme of Action in the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States and underlines the necessity of an appropriate response by the international community to appeals for funds by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the International Organization for Migration;

6. Calls upon States and interested international organizations to provide appropriate forms and levels of support for the practical implementation of the Programme of Action in a spirit of solidarity and burden-sharing;

7. Urges international financial and other institutions to contribute to the financing of projects and programmes within the framework of the implementation of the Programme of Action;

8. Invites the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States to intensify bilateral and subregional cooperation in maintaining the balance of commitments and interests in the process leading up to the implementation of the Programme of Action;

9. Calls upon the Governments of the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States to continue to strengthen their commitment to the principles underpinning the Programme of Action, in particular human rights and refugee protection principles, and to lend high-level political support to ensure progress in its implementation;

10. Emphasizes the necessity of fulfilling the recommendations of the Programme of Action relating to ensuring respect for human rights as an important factor in the management of migration flows, the consolidation of democracy, the rule of law and stability;

11. Urges the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, in coordination with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the International Organization for Migration and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, to take into account those elements of the Programme of Action that are relevant to her mandate;

12. Encourages the involvement of intergovernmental and non-governmental organization in the follow-up to the Conference, inviting them to demonstrate

stronger support for the process of the multinational constructive dialogue among a wide range of the countries concerned and further action with a view to the full implementation of the recommendations of the Conference;

13. Calls upon the Governments of the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States as well as international organizations to further strengthen their cooperation with non-governmental organizations and increase their involvement in the implementation of the outcome and follow-up of the Conference;

14. Requests the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to enhance its relationship with other key international actors, such as the Council of Europe, the European Commission and other human rights, development and financial institutions, in order to better address the wide-ranging and complex issues in the Programme of Action;

15. Recognizes the importance of undertaking measures, on the basis of strict adherence to all of the principles of international law including humanitarian law and international human rights standards, to prevent situations leading to new flows of refugees and displaced persons, and other forms of involuntary displacement;

16. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session on progress achieved in the implementation of the Programme of Action;

17. Decides to continue examination of this question at its fifty-third session under the appropriate agenda item.

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REPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES, QUESTIONS RELATING TO REFUGEES, RETURNEES AND DISPLACED PERSONS AND HUMANITARIAN QUESTIONS

Armenia, Belarus, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Italy, Kyrgyzstan, Luxembourg, Norway, Portugal, Russian Federation, Sweden, Tajikistan and United States of America: draft resolution

Follow-up to the Regional Conference to Address the Problems of Refugees, Displaced Persons, Other Forms of Involuntary Displacement and Returnees in the Countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States and Relevant Neighbouring States

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 48/113 of 20 December 1993, 49/173 of 23 December 1994, 50/151 of 21 December 1995 and, in particular, 51/70 of 12 December 1996,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General[1] and the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees,[2]

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* Reissued for technical reasons.

[1] A/52/274 and Corr.1.

[2] Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 12 (A/52/12).

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Recognizing the acuteness of the migration and displacement problems in the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States,

Noting with satisfaction the efforts of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the International Organization for Migration towards developing strategies and practical tools for more effective capacity-building and enhancing programmes to address the needs of various categories of concern to the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States,

Convinced of the necessity for further strengthening of practical measures towards the implementation of the Programme of Action adopted by the Conference,

Reaffirming the view of the Conference that the primary responsibility for tackling population displacement problems lies with the affected countries themselves and that these issues are to be regarded as national priorities, while at the same time recognizing the need for enhancing international support of the national efforts of the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States aiming at the effective implementation of such responsibilities within the framework of the Programme of Action,

Recalling that the protection and promotion of human rights and the strengthening of democratic institutions are essential to prevent mass population displacement,

Mindful that effective implementation of the recommendations contained in the Programme of Action should be facilitated and can be ensured only through cooperation and coordinated activities undertaken in this respect by all interested States, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and other actors,

Noting and reaffirming the importance of the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees[3] and its 1967 Protocol,[4]

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General[1] and the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees;[2]

2. Notes the positive results achieved by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the International Organization for Migration and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe in the implementation of the Programme of Action adopted by the Conference and invites these organizations to continue to steer the ongoing and future activities relating to the follow-up of the Conference;

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[1] A/51/341 and Corr.1, annex, appendix.

[3] United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 189, No. 2545.

[4] Ibid., vol. 606, No. 8791.

3. Welcomes the efforts of the Governments of those countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States that, in cooperation with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the International Organization for Migration, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and the Council of Europe, have undertaken practical steps in the implementation of the Programme of Action;

4. Invites all countries that have not yet done so to accede to and implement fully the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol;

5. Appreciates the efforts made by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the International Organization for Migration and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe to support the implementation of the Programme of Action in the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States and underlines the necessity of an appropriate response by the international community to appeals for funds by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the International Organization for Migration;

6. Calls upon States and interested international organizations to provide appropriate forms and levels of support for the practical implementation of the Programme of Action in a spirit of solidarity and burden-sharing;

7. Invites international financial and other institutions to contribute to the financing of projects and programmes within the framework of the implementation of the Programme of Action;

8. Invites the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States to intensify bilateral and subregional cooperation in maintaining the balance of commitments and interests in the process leading up to the implementation of the Programme of Action;

9. Calls upon the Governments of the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States to continue to strengthen their commitment to the principles underpinning the Programme of Action, in particular human rights and refugee protection principles, and to lend high-level political support to ensure progress in its implementation;

10. Emphasizes the necessity of fulfilling the recommendations of the Programme of Action relating to ensuring respect for human rights as an important factor in the management of migration flows, the consolidation of democracy, the rule of law and stability;

11. Urges the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, in coordination with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the International Organization for Migration and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, to take into account those elements of the Programme of Action that are relevant to her mandate;

12. Encourages the involvement of intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations in the follow-up to the Conference, inviting them to demonstrate

stronger support for the process of the multinational constructive dialogue among a wide range of the countries concerned and further action with a view to the full implementation of the recommendations of the Conference;

13. Calls upon the Governments of the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States as well as international organizations to further strengthen their cooperation with non-governmental organizations and increase their involvement in the implementation of the outcome and follow-up of the Conference;

14. Asks also the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to enhance its relationship with other key international actors, such as the Council of Europe, the European Commission and other human rights, development and financial institutions, in order to better address the wide-ranging and complex issues in the Programme of Action;

15. Recognizes the importance of undertaking measures, on the basis of strict adherence to all of the principles of international law including humanitarian law and international human rights standards, to prevent situations leading to new flows of refugees and displaced persons, and other forms of involuntary displacement;

16. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session on progress achieved in the implementation of the Programme of Action;

17. Decides to continue examination of this question at its fifty-third session under the appropriate agenda item.

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NATIONS

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REPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES, QUESTIONS RELATING TO REFUGEES, RETURNEES AND DISPLACED PERSONS AND HUMANITARIAN QUESTIONS

Andorra, Antigua and Barbuda, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Barbados, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Mali, Malta, Monaco, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, San Marino, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America: draft resolution

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on the activities of her Office[1] and the report of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on the work of its forty-eighth session,[2]

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[1] Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 12 (A/52/12).

[2] A/52/12/Add.1; see Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 12A.

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Recalling its resolution 51/75 of 12 December 1996,

Reaffirming the fundamental importance of the 1951 Convention[1] and the 1967 Protocol[2] relating to the Status of Refugees, in particular their implementation in a manner fully compatible with the object and purpose of those instruments, and noting with satisfaction that one hundred and thirty-five States are now parties to one or both instruments,

Commending the High Commissioner and her staff for the competent, courageous and dedicated manner in which they discharge their responsibilities, paying tribute to those staff members whose lives have been endangered in the course of their duties, and deploring the deaths of staff members as a consequence of violent events in several countries around the world,

1. Endorses the report of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on the work of its forty-eighth session;[3]

2. Strongly reaffirms the fundamental importance and the purely humanitarian and non-political character of the function of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees of providing international protection to refugees and seeking permanent solutions to the problem of refugees;

3. Deplores the immense human suffering and loss of life that have accompanied refugee flows and other forced displacements, in particular numerous serious threats to the security or well-being of refugees, refoulement, unlawful expulsion, physical attacks and detention under unacceptable conditions, and calls upon States to take all measures necessary to ensure respect for the principles of refugee protection, including the humane treatment of asylum-seekers in accordance with internationally recognized human rights and humanitarian norms;

4. Emphasizes that refugee protection is primarily the responsibility of States, whose full and effective cooperation, action and political resolve are required to enable the Office of the High Commissioner to fulfil its mandated functions;

5. Reaffirms that everyone is entitled to seek and enjoy in other countries asylum from persecution and, as asylum is an indispensable instrument for the international protection of refugees, calls upon all States to refrain from taking measures that jeopardize the institution of asylum, in particular by returning or expelling refugees or asylum-seekers contrary to international human rights, humanitarian and refugee law;

6. Stresses the importance of international solidarity and burden-sharing in reinforcing the international protection of refugees, and urges all States

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[1] United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 189, No. 2545.

[2] Ibid., vol. 606, No. 8791.

and relevant non-governmental and other organizations, in conjunction with the Office of the High Commissioner, to cooperate in efforts to lighten the burden borne by those States that have received large numbers of asylum-seekers and refugees;

7. Condemns all acts that pose a threat to the personal security of refugees and asylum-seekers, and calls upon States of refuge, with international organizations where appropriate, to take all necessary measures to ensure that the civilian and humanitarian character of refugee camps and settlements is maintained, inter alia, through effective measures to prevent the infiltration of armed elements, the identification of any such armed elements and their separation from refugee populations, the settlement of refugees in secure locations and the affording to the Office of the High Commissioner and other appropriate humanitarian organizations of prompt, unhindered and safe access to those populations, as well as to abstain from any activities likely to undermine such measures;

8. Calls upon States and all concerned parties to refrain from any actions that could prevent or obstruct the High Commissioner's staff and other humanitarian personnel in the performance of the functions required under their mandates, to take all possible measures to safeguard the physical security and property of those staff, to investigate fully any crime committed against them, to bring to justice persons responsible for such crimes and to facilitate the discharge of the mandated functions of the Office of the High Commissioner as well as of other humanitarian organizations;

9. Urges all States and relevant organizations to support the High Commissioner's search for durable solutions to refugee problems, including voluntary repatriation, integration in the country of asylum and resettlement in a third country, as appropriate, and welcomes in particular the ongoing efforts of her Office to pursue, wherever possible, opportunities to promote conditions conducive to the preferred solution of voluntary repatriation;

10. Recognizes the value of comprehensive regional approaches in which the High Commissioner has played a significant role in both countries of origin and countries of asylum, and encourages States, in coordination and cooperation with each other and with international organizations, if applicable, to consider adopting protection-based comprehensive and regional approaches that conform fully to universally recognized standards and respond to particular regional initiatives, circumstances and protection needs;

11. Reaffirms that voluntary repatriation is the ideal solution to refugee problems, and calls upon countries of origin, countries of asylum, the Office of the High Commissioner and the international community as a whole to do everything possible to enable refugees to exercise their right to return home in safety and with dignity;

12. Reiterates the right of all persons to return to their country, and emphasizes in this regard the prime responsibility of countries of origin for establishing conditions that allow voluntary repatriation of refugees in safety and with dignity and, in recognition of the obligation of all States to accept the return of their nationals, calls upon all States to facilitate the return of

their nationals who have sought asylum but have been determined not to be refugees;

13. Calls upon all States to promote conditions conducive to the return of refugees and to support their sustainable reintegration by providing countries of origin with necessary rehabilitation and development assistance in conjunction, as appropriate, with the Office of the High Commissioner and relevant development agencies, urges the Office of the High Commissioner, within its mandate and at the request of any Government concerned, in view of the relationship between safeguarding human rights and preventing conditions that give rise to refugee outflows, to strengthen its support of national efforts at legal and judicial capacity-building, where necessary, in cooperation with the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and also urges the Office of the High Commissioner, in view of creating conditions furthering reconciliation and long-term development in countries of return, to strengthen its cooperation and coordination with relevant development agencies;

14. Calls upon States to adopt an approach that is sensitive to gender-related concerns and to ensure that women are recognized as refugees whose claims to refugee status are based upon a well-founded fear of persecution for reasons enumerated in the 1951 Convention and the 1967 Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees, including persecution through sexual violence or other gender-related persecution, and encourages the Office of the High Commissioner to continue and strengthen its efforts towards the protection of refugee women;

15. Urges States and relevant parties to respect and observe principles of international human rights, humanitarian and refugee law that are of particular relevance to safeguarding the rights of child and adolescent refugees and, noting the particular vulnerability of refugee children in terms of their being forcibly exposed to the risks of injury, exploitation and death in connection with armed conflict, urges all States and concerned parties to take all possible measures to protect child and adolescent refugees, including, in particular, from all forms of violence, exploitation and abuse, and to prevent their separation from their families;

16. Calls upon all Governments and other donors to demonstrate their international solidarity and burden-sharing with countries of asylum through efforts aimed at continuing to alleviate the burden borne by States, in particular developing countries, countries in transition and countries with limited resources, that, owing to their location, host large numbers of refugees and asylum-seekers, to contribute to the programmes of the Office of the High Commissioner and, taking into account the effects on countries of asylum of the increasing requirements of large refugee populations and the need to widen the donor base and to achieve greater burden-sharing among donors, to assist the High Commissioner in securing additional and timely income from traditional governmental sources, other Governments and the private sector in order to ensure that the needs of refugees, returnees and displaced persons of concern to the Office of the High Commissioner are fully met.

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REPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES, QUESTIONS RELATING TO REFUGEES, RETURNEES AND DISPLACED PERSONS AND HUMANITARIAN QUESTIONS

Andorra, Antigua and Barbuda, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Barbados, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Mali, Malta, Monaco, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, San Marino, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America: draft resolution

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on the activities of her Office[1] and the report of the Executive

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* Reissued for technical reasons.

[1] Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 12 (A/52/12).

Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on the work of its forty-eighth session,[1]

Recalling its resolution 51/75 of 12 December 1996,

Reaffirming the fundamental importance of the 1951 Convention[2] and the 1967 Protocol[3] relating to the Status of Refugees, in particular their implementation in a manner fully compatible with the object and purpose of those instruments, and noting with satisfaction that one hundred and thirty-five States are now parties to one or both instruments,

Commending the High Commissioner and her staff for the competent, courageous and dedicated manner in which they discharge their responsibilities, paying tribute to those staff members whose lives have been endangered in the course of their duties, and deploring the deaths of staff members as a consequence of violent events in several countries around the world,

1. Endorses the report of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on the work of its forty-eighth session;

2. Strongly reaffirms the fundamental importance and the purely humanitarian and non-political character of the function of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees of providing international protection to refugees and seeking permanent solutions to the problem of refugees;

3. Deplores the immense human suffering and loss of life that have accompanied refugee flows and other forced displacements, in particular numerous serious threats to the security or well-being of refugees, refoulement, unlawful expulsion, physical attacks and detention under unacceptable conditions, and calls upon States to take all measures necessary to ensure respect for the principles of refugee protection, including the humane treatment of asylum-seekers in accordance with internationally recognized human rights and humanitarian norms;

4. Emphasizes that refugee protection is primarily the responsibility of States, whose full and effective cooperation, action and political resolve are required to enable the Office of the High Commissioner to fulfil its mandated functions;

5. Reaffirms that everyone is entitled to the right to seek and enjoy in other countries asylum from persecution and, as asylum is an indispensable instrument for the international protection of refugees, calls on all States to refrain from taking measures that jeopardize the institution of asylum, in

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[1] A/52/12/Add.1; see Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 12A.

[2] United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 189, No. 2545.

[3] Ibid., vol. 606, No. 8791.

particular by returning or expelling refugees or asylum-seekers contrary to international human rights, humanitarian and refugee law;

6. Stresses the importance of international solidarity and burden-sharing in reinforcing the international protection of refugees, and urges all States and relevant non-governmental and other organizations, in conjunction with the Office of the High Commissioner, to cooperate in efforts to lighten the burden borne by States that have received large numbers of asylum-seekers and refugees;

7. Condemns all acts that pose a threat to the personal security of refugees and asylum-seekers, and calls upon States of refuge, with international organizations where appropriate, to take all necessary measures to ensure that the civilian and humanitarian character of refugee camps and settlements is maintained, as well as to abstain from any activity likely to undermine this, inter alia, through effective measures to prevent the infiltration of armed elements, the identification and separation of any such armed elements from refugee populations, the settlement of refugees in secure locations and affording prompt, unhindered and safe access to them to the Office of the High Commissioner and other appropriate humanitarian organizations;

8. Calls upon States and all concerned parties to refrain from any actions that prevent or obstruct the staff of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and other humanitarian personnel from performing the functions required under their mandates, to take all possible measures to safeguard their physical security and property, to investigate fully any crime committed against them, to bring to justice persons responsible for such crimes and to facilitate the discharge of the mandated functions of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees as well as of other humanitarian organizations;

9. Urges all States and relevant organizations to support the High Commissioner's search for durable solutions to refugee problems, including voluntary repatriation, integration in the country of asylum and resettlement in a third country, as appropriate, and welcomes in particular the ongoing efforts of her Office to pursue, wherever possible, opportunities to promote conditions conducive to the preferred solution of voluntary repatriation;

10. Recognizes the value of comprehensive regional approaches in which the High Commissioner has played a significant part in both countries of origin and countries of asylum, encourages States, in coordination and cooperation with each other and with international organizations, if applicable, to consider adopting protection-based comprehensive and regional approaches that conform fully with universally recognized standards and respond to particular regional initiatives, circumstances and protection needs;

11. Reaffirms that voluntary repatriation is the ideal solution to refugee problems, and calls upon countries of origin, countries of asylum, the Office of the High Commissioner and the international community as a whole to do everything possible to enable refugees to exercise their right to return home in safety and with dignity;

12. Reiterates the right of all persons to return to their country, and emphasizes in this regard the prime responsibility of countries of origin for establishing conditions that allow voluntary repatriation of refugees in safety

and with dignity and, in recognition of the obligation of all States to accept the return of their nationals, calls upon all States to facilitate the return of their nationals who have sought asylum and have been determined not to be refugees;

13. Calls upon all States to promote conditions conducive to the return of refugees and to support their sustainable reintegration by providing countries of origin with necessary rehabilitation and development assistance in conjunction, as appropriate, with the Office of the High Commissioner and relevant development agencies, and, in view of the relationship between safeguarding human rights and preventing conditions that give rise to refugee outflows, urges the Office of the High Commissioner, within its mandate and at the request of the Government concerned, to strengthen its support of national efforts at legal and judicial capacity-building, where necessary, in cooperation with the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, and in view of creating conditions furthering reconciliation and long-term development in countries of return, urges the Office of the High Commissioner to strengthen its cooperation and coordination with relevant development agencies;

14. Calls upon States to adopt an approach that is sensitive to gender-related concerns and to ensure that women whose claims to refugee status are based upon a well-founded fear of persecution for reasons enumerated in the 1951 Convention and its 1967 Protocol, including persecution through sexual violence or other gender-related persecution, are recognized as refugees and encourages the Office of the High Commissioner to continue and strengthen its efforts for the protection of refugee women;

15. Urges States and relevant parties to respect and observe principles of international human rights, humanitarian and refugee law that are of particular relevance to safeguarding the rights of child and adolescent refugees, and noting the particular vulnerability of refugee children to being forcibly exposed to the risks of injury, exploitation and death in connection with armed conflict, urges all States and concerned parties to take all possible measures to protect child and adolescent refugees, including, in particular, from all forms of violence, exploitation and abuse, and preventing their separation from their families;

16. Calls upon all Governments and other donors to demonstrate their international solidarity and burden-sharing with countries of asylum through efforts aimed at continuing to alleviate the burden borne by States, in particular developing countries, countries in transition and countries with limited resources, that, due to their location, host large numbers of refugees and asylum-seekers, to contribute to the programmes of the Office of the High Commissioner and, taking into account the effects on countries of asylum of the increasing requirements of large refugee populations and the need to widen the donor base and to achieve greater burden-sharing among donors, to assist the High Commissioner in securing additional and timely income from traditional governmental sources, other Governments and the private sector in order to ensure that the needs of refugees, returnees and displaced persons of concern to the Office of the High Commissioner are fully met.

UNITED NATIONS **A**

General Assembly

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Fifty-second session
THIRD COMMITTEE
Agenda item 107

REPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES, QUESTIONS RELATING TO REFUGEES, RETURNEES AND DISPLACED PERSONS AND HUMANITARIAN QUESTIONS

Algeria, Antigua and Barbuda, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Barbados, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, China, Costa Rica, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guyana, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Mali, Malta, Monaco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America: draft resolution

Continuation of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 47/104 of December 1992, in which it decided to review, not later than at its fifty-second session, the arrangements for the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees with a view to determining whether the Office should be continued beyond 31 December 1998,

Recognizing the need for concerted international action on behalf of refugees and displaced persons of concern to the High Commissioner,

Considering the outstanding work that has been performed by the Office of the High Commissioner in providing international protection and material assistance to refugees and displaced persons as well as in promoting permanent solutions to their problems,

Noting with deep appreciation the effective manner in which the Office of the High Commissioner has been dealing with various essential humanitarian tasks entrusted to it,

1. Decides to continue the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees for a further period of five years from 1 January 1999;

2. Also decides to review, not later than at its fifty-seventh session, the arrangements for the Office of the High Commissioner with a view to determining whether the Office should be continued beyond 31 December 2003.

UNITED
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General Assembly

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10 November 1997

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Fifty-second session
THIRD COMMITTEE
Agenda item 110

ELIMINATION OF RACISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION

United Republic of Tanzania*: draft resolution

Measures to combat contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 51/79 of 12 December 1996 and Commission on Human Rights resolutions 1997/73 and 1997/74 of 18 April 1997,

Bearing in mind the outcome of the World Conference on Human Rights, held at Vienna from 14 to 25 June 1993, in particular the attention given to the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action[1] to the elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and other forms of intolerance,

Aware that racism, as one of the exclusionist phenomena plaguing many societies, requires resolute action and cooperation for its eradication,

Having examined the report of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance,[2] including its conclusions and recommendations,

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* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China.

[1] A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

[2] See A/52/471.

Deeply concerned that despite continued efforts, racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, as well as acts of violence, continue to persist and even grown in magnitude, incessantly adopting new forms, including tendencies to establish policies based on racial, religious, ethnic, cultural and national superiority or exclusivity,

Also deeply concerned that the misuse of new communications technologies, particularly the Internet, has led to new forms of racism and racial discrimination,

Conscious of the fundamental difference between, on the one hand, racism and racial discrimination as governmental policy or resulting from official doctrines of racial superiority or exclusivity, and on the other hand, other manifestations of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance that are increasingly visible segments of many societies and are perpetrated by individuals or groups, some of which manifestations are directed against migrant workers and members of their families,

Noting that the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, in its recommendation XV on article 4 (42) 1993, holds that the prohibition of the dissemination of ideas based on racial superiority or racial hatred is compatible with the rights to freedom of opinion and expression as outlined in article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights[4] and in paragraph 5 of the International Convention on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination,

Also conscious that impunity for crimes motivated by racist and xenophobic attitudes plays a role in weakening the rule of law and tends to encourage the recurrence to such crimes,

Emphasizing the importance of creating conditions that foster greater harmony and tolerance within societies,

1. Takes note with appreciation of the report of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance;[3]

2. Requests the Special Rapporteur to continue his exchange of views with Member States, relevant mechanisms, related United Nations organs and specialized agencies in order to further their effectiveness and mutual cooperation;

3. Welcomes the recommendation of the Special Rapporteur to convene, without further delay, a world conference on racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, and to include the question of immigration and xenophobia on the agenda of such a conference,

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[3] Ibid., para. 46.

[4] Resolution 217 A (III).

[5] Resolution 2106 A (XX).

4. Affirms that under international human rights law, racism is not an opinion but an offence;

5. Expresses its profound concern at and unequivocal condemnation of all forms of racism and racial discrimination and all racist violence, including related acts of random and indiscriminate violence;

6. Also expresses its profound concern at and unequivocal condemnation of all forms of racism and racial discrimination, including propaganda, activities and organizations based on doctrines of superiority of one race or group of persons of one colour or belief system that attempt to justify or promote racism and racial discrimination in any form;

7. Further expresses its profound concern at and condemnation of manifestations of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance against migrant workers and members of their families, minorities, gypsies or nomads, and other vulnerable groups in many societies;

8. Encourages all States, to include in their educational curricula and social programmes at all levels, as appropriate, knowledge, tolerance and respect for foreign cultures, peoples and countries;

9. Convinced that the increasing gravity of different manifestations of racism, racial discrimination and xenophobia in certain countries of the world requires a more integrated and focused approach on the part of the relevant mechanisms of United Nations human rights machinery;

10. Encourages Governments to take measures to eradicate all forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance;

11. Categorically condemns the role played by some print, audio-visual and electronic media, particularly the Internet, in inciting acts of violence motivated by racial hatred;

12. Recognizes that Governments should implement and enforce legislation to prevent acts of racism and racial discrimination;

13. Calls upon all Governments and intergovernmental organizations, with the assistance of non-governmental organizations, as appropriate, to supply relevant information based on special situations in various countries to the Special Rapporteur to enable him to fulfil his mandates;

14. Commends non-governmental organizations for the action that they have taken against racism and racial discrimination, and for the continuous support and assistance provided by them to the victims of racism and racial discrimination;

15. Urges all Governments to cooperate fully with the Special Rapporteur with a view to enabling him to fulfil his mandate;

16. Requests the Secretary-General to provide the Special Rapporteur with all the necessary human and financial assistance in carrying out his mandate efficiently, effectively and expeditiously to enable him to submit an interim report to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session.

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Fifty-second session
THIRD COMMITTEE
Agenda item 110

ELIMINATION OF RACISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION

United Republic of Tanzania*: revised draft resolution

Measures to combat contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 51/79 of 12 December 1996 and Commission on Human Rights resolutions 1997/73 and 1997/74 of 18 April 1997,[1]

Bearing in mind the outcome of the World Conference on Human Rights, held at Vienna from 14 to 25 June 1993, in particular the attention given in the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action[2] to the elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and other forms of intolerance,

Aware that racism, as one of the exclusionist phenomena plaguing many societies, requires resolute action and cooperation for its eradication,

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* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China.

[1] See Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1997, Supplement No. 3 (E/1997/23), chap. II, sect. A.

[2] A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

Having examined the report of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance,[1] including its conclusions and recommendations,

Deeply concerned that, despite continued efforts, racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, as well as acts of violence, continue to persist and even grow in magnitude, incessantly adopting new forms, including tendencies to establish policies based on racial, religious, ethnic, cultural and national superiority or exclusivity,

Deeply concerned also that those advocating racism and racial discrimination misuse new communication technologies, including the Internet, to disseminate their repugnant views,

Conscious of the fundamental difference between, on the one hand, racism and racial discrimination as governmental policy or resulting from official doctrines of racial superiority or exclusivity and, on the other hand, other manifestations of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance that are increasingly visible in segments of many societies and are perpetrated by individuals or groups, some of which manifestations are directed against migrant workers and members of their families,

Noting that the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, in its general recommendation XV (42) of 17 March 1993[2] on article 4 of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, holds that the prohibition of the dissemination of ideas based on racial superiority or racial hatred is compatible with the right to freedom of opinion and expression as outlined in article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights[3] and in article 5 of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination,[4]

Conscious that impunity for crimes motivated by racist and xenophobic attitudes plays a role in weakening the rule of law and tends to encourage the recurrence of such crimes,

Emphasizing the importance of creating conditions that foster greater harmony and tolerance within societies,

1. Takes note with appreciation of the report of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance;[1]

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[1] A/52/471.

[2] See Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 18 (A/48/18), chap. VIII, sect. B.

[3] Resolution 217 A (III).

[4] Resolution 2106 A (XX), annex.

2. Requests the Special Rapporteur to continue his exchange of views with Member States, relevant mechanisms, related United Nations organs and specialized agencies in order to further their effectiveness and mutual cooperation;

3. Welcomes the recommendation of the Special Rapporteur to convene, without further delay, a world conference on racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance;

4. Affirms that racism, in particular acts of racist violence, does not comprise expressions of opinion but rather offences;

5. Expresses its profound concern at and unequivocal condemnation of all forms of racism and racial discrimination, in particular all racist violence, and related acts of random and indiscriminate violence;

6. Also expresses its profound concern at and unequivocal condemnation of all forms of racism and racial discrimination, including propaganda, activities and organizations based on doctrines of superiority of one race or group of persons, that attempt to justify or promote racism and racial discrimination in any form;

7. Expresses its profound concern at and condemnation of manifestations of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance against migrant workers and members of their families, persons belonging to minorities, and members of vulnerable groups in many societies;

8. Encourages all States to include in their educational curricula and social programmes at all levels, as appropriate, knowledge of, and tolerance and respect for, foreign cultures, peoples and countries;

9. Recognizes that the increasing gravity of different manifestations of racism, racial discrimination and xenophobia in certain countries of the world requires a more integrated and focused approach on the part of the relevant mechanisms of United Nations human rights machinery;

10. Encourages Governments to take measures to eradicate all forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance;

11. Categorically condemns those who misuse some print, audio-visual and electronic media and new communication technologies including the Internet, in inciting violence motivated by racial hatred;

12. Recognizes that Governments should implement and enforce legislation to prevent acts of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance;

13. Calls upon all Governments and intergovernmental organizations, with the assistance of non-governmental organizations, as appropriate, to supply relevant information to the Special Rapporteur based on situations in various countries to enable him to fulfil his mandates;

14. Commends non-governmental organizations for the action that they have taken against racism and racial discrimination, and for the continuous support and assistance that they have provided to the victims of racism and racial discrimination;

15. Urges all Governments to cooperate fully with the Special Rapporteur with a view to enabling him to fulfil his mandate;

16. Requests the Secretary-General to provide the Special Rapporteur with all the necessary human and financial assistance to carry out his mandate efficiently, effectively and expeditiously and to enable him to submit an interim report to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session.